

Claims

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1. A method of isolating nucleic acid from a sample, said method comprising contacting said sample with a detergent and a solid support, whereby soluble nucleic acid in said sample is bound to the support, and separating said support with bound nucleic acid from the sample.

10 2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is RNA.

15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an additional step to isolate RNA from the sample.

25 5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising one or more additional steps to disrupt structural components in the sample or to achieve lysis of cells in the sample.

6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the detergent is anionic.

30 7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the detergent is sodium dodecyl sulphate, or another alkali metal alkylsulphate salt, or sarkosyl.

8. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the concentration of detergent is 0.2 to 30% (w/v).

35 9. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the detergent is contained in a composition additionally comprising one or more monovalent cations, chelating agents or reducing agents.

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10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9,
wherein the detergent is used in alkaline solution.

11. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10,
5 wherein the solid support is particulate.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the solid
support comprises magnetic beads.

10 13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12,
wherein the solid support has a hydrophobic surface.

14. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13,
wherein the nucleic acid is eluted from the support,
15 following separation from the sample.

Sub 30
~~15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the
nucleic acid is eluted by heating.~~

20 Sub 31
16. A kit for isolating nucleic acid from a sample,
comprising a solid support and one or more detergents as
defined in any one of claims 1 to 13.

25 Sub 32
17. A kit as claimed in claim 16, further comprising
one or more buffers, salts, lysis agents, chelating
agents and/or reducing agents.

30 Sub 33
18. A kit as claimed in claim 16 or claim 17, further
comprising means for isolating RNA.

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